

Five Arrested In Firearms Operation In West Yorkshire

FRIDAY, 08 APRIL, 2011

West Yorkshire Police has arrested five people overnight, in connection with the illegal importation of firearms into the UK from America.

The joint operation between West Yorkshire Police, NABIS and SOCA has seen warrants executed at addresses in Bradford, Leeds and Pontefract.

The men from Bradford aged 32, 32, 31, 23 and 23 were arrested by firearms officers and are currently in police custody being interviewed by detectives.

The operation has been supported by numerous law enforcement agencies including the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in the USA.

Detective Chief Superintendent Ingrid Lee, Head of Crime Division at West Yorkshire Police said: *"These arrests show we are not prepared to tolerate the presence of firearms on our streets and within our communities.*

Local, National and International law enforcement agencies have worked together to ensure an effective and robust response to this illegal activity."

Matt Lewis Head of Knowledge for NABIS said: *"These arrests show how UK law enforcement agencies, both nationally and internationally, can work together to stop this type of illegal activity. The National Ballistics Intelligence Service will continue to work with its partners which include police forces, SOCA and the ATF to take firearms off our streets and out of criminal hands."*

SOCA's Nigel Kirby said: *"Criminals who traffick firearms onto the UK streets knowingly jeopardise the safety of citizens and communities. SOCA works closely with its partners to stop organised crime groups trafficking and distributing firearms. This operation, led by West Yorkshire Police, demonstrates how effective partnerships can be in protecting the public."*

Note To Newsdesks

What offences have these people been arrested for?

Arrests have been made for Conspiracy to Contravene Section 16 of the Firearms Act 1968 and Conspiracy to Contravene Section 170 of The Customs and Excise Management Act 1979.

What is the National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS)?

NABIS has three areas of focused delivery, Forensic Services, Intelligence and Knowledge. These three areas come together to ensure a complete and holistic approach to tackling this most harmful of crime.

What is Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA)?

SOCA tackles serious organised crime that harms the UK and its citizens. This includes Class A drugs, people smuggling and human trafficking, major gun crime, fraud, computer crime, and money laundering. SOCA uses traditional law enforcement methods to investigate and arrest serious criminals. It also draws on innovative new approaches to prevent crimes from happening in the first place.